

REMARKS

This paper is being presented in response to the final official action dated October 18, 2006, wherein: (a) claims 31-40 were pending; (b) claim 31 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious over Tjerkstra et al. "Multi-Walled Microchannels: Free Standing Porous Silicon Membranes for Use in μ TAS" ("Tjerkstra") in view of Nassiopoulos "Local Formation and Patterning of Porous Silicon" ("Nassiopoulos"); (c) claim 31 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious over Lammel et al. "Free-Standing, Mobile 3D Porous Silicon Microstructures" ("Lammel") in view of Halimaoui "Porous Silicon Formation by Anodisation" ("Halimaoui") and Nassiopoulos; (d) claims 38 and 40 were objected to due to informalities; (e) claims 39 and 40 were allowed; and, (f) claims 32-38 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The applicant hereby acknowledges, with appreciation, the indication that claims 39 and 40 have been allowed, and the indication that claims 32-38 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of the claim from which each depends.

The accompanying amendments are proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 and may be entered by the examiner because they address matters of form and do not present new issues requiring further consideration or search.

As amended, there are five independent claims and a total of nine claims.

I. Brief Summary of the Amendments to the Claims

Claim 31 has been canceled.

Claims 32, 35, and 38 each have been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the elements of claim 31, the claim from which each of the three claims previously depended.

Claims 38 and 40 have been amended to address matters of form.

By these amendments, it is submitted that claims 32-38 are in condition for allowance.

No new matter has been introduced by the foregoing amendments.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, cancellation of claim 31, entry of the amendments to claims 32, 35, 38, and 40, and allowance of all pending claims 32-40 are respectfully requested.

Should the examiner wish to discuss the foregoing, or any matter of form or procedure in an effort to advance this application to allowance, the examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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